

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 1 with the following paragraph:

[001] This application is a divisional application of co-pending U. S. patent application no. 09/449,285, filed on 24 November 1999, now U. S. Patent [_____] 6,313,280, issued November 6, 2001, which ~~itself~~ claims priority from, as a continuation-in-part, pending of international patent application no. PCT/EP98/03193, filed on 28 May 1998, designating the United States of America, published in English December 10, 1998, as international publication WO 98/55512 ~~which itself claims priority from European Patent Application EP 97201645.5 filed on 2 June 1997.~~

Please replace the paragraph following the subheading REFERENCE TO A “SEQUENCE LISTING”, which is between paragraph number [0001] and [0002] on page one of the specification with the following paragraph:

The computer readable form of the sequence listing in this application is identical with that filed in U. S. patent application no. 09/449,285, filed 24 November 1999, now U. S. Patent 6,313,280, issued November 6, 2001. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.821(e), please use the last-filed computer readable form filed in that application as the computer readable form for the instant application. The paper copy of the instant application is identical with the computer readable copy filed for application no. 09/449,285.